

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1-10, and adds new Claims 11-13 without introducing any new matter.

The outstanding Office Action objected to the Abstract of the disclosure because of informalities, and to Claims 4-10 as being in improper multiple-dependent form. Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as anticipated by Jones et al. (Canadian Patent Application, CA 2,321,462, hereinafter "Jones").

In response to the objection to the Abstract of the disclosure as being longer than 150 words, the Abstract is amended to correct some informalities, and to be shortened below the 150 word limit. Because the changes are formal in nature, no new matter has been added.

In response to the objection to dependent Claims 4-10 as being in multiple-dependent form, these claims are amended to delete the multiple claim dependency, and are now depending from independent Claim 1.

To correct minor formal issues, and to better comply with U.S. claim drafting practice, independent Claim 1 is amended. For example, independent Claim 1 is amended to "the recording instructions including a user identification, a channel number, and recording timing," and to recite that the instructions are configured to instruct the controlling central unit to select and store the television signals. These features find non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example at p. 8, l. 15, to p. 9, l. 14. No new matter has been added. Dependent Claim 2-10 are also amended to correct minor formal issues, and no new matter has been introduced by these amendments.

Moreover, new Claims 11-13 are presented. New Claim 11 depends upon independent Claim 1, and recites features related to parallel reception and recording of

television signals.¹ New Claim 12 depends upon dependent Claim 7 and recites that the ready message is sent as short message from a mobile device.² New Claim 13 depends upon independent Claim 1 and recites features related to the user identification.³ Because the new claims find non-limiting support in the disclosure, no new matter has been added.

In response to the rejections of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection and traverse the rejection, as discussed next.

Briefly summarizing, Applicants' Claim 1 is directed to a system for recording and playback of television signals from a plurality of television channels. The system includes, *inter alia*: a controlling central unit, connectible to a telecommunication network, a plurality of television receivers, each connected to the controlling central unit and configured to receive television signals, a plurality of coding modules to code the received television signals into a digital format, an instruction unit connected to the controlling central unit, configured to receive and store recording instructions from users via the telecommunication network, the recording instructions including a user identification, a channel number, and recording timing, and configured to instruct the controlling central unit to select and store the television signals in the digital format based on the recording instructions including information on a television channel specified by the channel number and the recording timing, and configured to ***assign the user identification to the selected television signals***, and a playback module configured to transmit the television signals via the telecommunication network for playback on a terminal of the user, who is identified by the user identification assigned to the respective stored television signals.

¹ Finds non-limiting support in Applicants' disclosure as originally filed, for example in the specification at p. 3, ll. 26-29.

² *Idem*, p. 10, ll. 5-6.

³ *Idem*, p. 9, ll. 9-14.

As explained in Applicants' Specification in a non-limiting example, the features of Applicants' Claim 1 allow the parallel recording of multiple television signals, even if the television signals are the same that are requested by different users, and the storage of these television signals to display them at a later time instance, for different users, on their respective terminals.

Turning now to the applied reference, Jones is directed to a digital interactive TV delivery system to transmit multimedia on-demand over the internet to different users. (Jones, Abstract.) Jones explains that the on-demand component can receive a record request from a subscriber and stores the multimedia content in response to the record request. (Jones, Abstract, ll. 17-20.) The record request may include information on the broadcast channel, and the time information to identify the multimedia content. (Id., and starting at p.25, l. 23.) However, the cited passages of Jones fail to teach all the features of Applicants' Claim 1. In particular, Jones fails to teach:

an instruction unit ... configured to receive and store recording instructions ... including a ***user identification***, a channel number, and recording timing, and configured to instruct the controlling central unit to select and store the television signals in the digital format based on the recording instructions ..., and configured to ***assign the user identification to the selected television signals***.

(Claim 1, portions omitted, emphasis added.) In other words, Applicants' Claim 1 requires that the instruction unit (a) stores the user identification that is included in the recording instructions, (b) instructs the central unit to store the television signal, and (c) assigns the same user identification to the selected television signals. However, Jones merely explains it is possible that a user makes a request to playback a stored program, and the stored program is searched based on the interactive program guide IPG, for example by using station ID, air date and time, and a playlist ID. (Jones, p. 38, l. 12, to p. 39, l. 30) Moreover, Jones explains that an IP address of a client playback device can be recovered and stored, and can be used to validate a request. (Jones, p. 39, ll. 27-30.) However, the cited passages in Jones clearly fail

to teach that an instruction unit receives an user identification and assign the user identification to the selected television signals.


Therefore, the cited passages of the applied reference Jones fail to teach every feature recited in Applicants' Claim 1, so that Claims 1-13 are believed to be patentably distinct over Jones. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse, and request reconsideration of the rejection based on Jones.⁴

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-13 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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⁴ See MPEP 2131: "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference," (Citations omitted) (emphasis added). See also MPEP 2143.03: "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art."